# Making a Difference

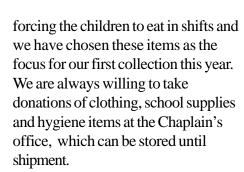
By Mary Ellen Keen
The soldiers, civilians and family
members of USARSO have always
tried to improve the lives of those in
need in the countries where they
work or visit, especially the children.
Several years ago, Esther Valenzuela,
wife of then USARSO commander,
MG Valenzuela, began taking
clothing, toys and other supplies to
orphanages in Honduras whenever
there was space on the aircraft when
they traveled to the region.

When USARSO moved to San Antonio an organized effort to send aid was championed by Chaplain Hoadley and spouses such as Kelly Wood, Mary Ann Montero and Betsy Meyer, with donations coming from within the USARSO family. Collections of new or gently used clothing, new school supplies and hygiene supplies have been collected three (3) times a year and sent by USARSO ships to Honduras and disseminated by the Chaplain at (Joint Task Force- Bravo) JTF-Bravo. Chaplain Hoadley has personally visited the area, as recently as December 2005, and seen the children who have benefited by your generosity. USARSO has made a difference and can continue to do so.

On February 9, 2006, a committee was formed to examine how USARSO might continue this support. They discussed the hard questions about who we should try to help and how to accomplish these goals. There is a real desire to help

children in many countries in Latin America and many people had personal knowledge of children in need. The reality seems to be that our resources are not limitless and we have to be able to ship our donations at no cost and within a reasonable period of time. The children around Soto Cano, Honduras, certainly need our assistance and their proximity to the U.S. base allows us to get our donations to them relatively easily. There are several large orphanages and schools in this area and meeting of their basic needs is a monumental task.

Chaplain Compston, at JTF-Bravo, surveyed the immediate needs of these orphanages last week and sent us a detailed list. All of them have severe shortages of dishes, bowls, plates and eating utensils



Please watch for posters and e-mails in March, which will provide detailed information about how you can personally make a difference in the lives of these children.





### SPRING BREAK IN MEXICO - "Know Before You Go!"

Over 100.000 American teenagers and young adults travel to resort areas throughout Mexico over Spring Break each year. While the vast majority enjoy their vacations without incident, several may be seriously injured, hundreds will be arrested and still more will make mistakes that could affect individuals 16 years of them for the rest of their lives. Using some common sense will help travelers avoid these unpleasant and dangerous situations.

Mexican Law While traveling in Mexico, American citizens are subject to Mexican law. An arrest or accident in Mexico can result in a difficult legal or medical situation, sometimes at great expense to the traveler. Mexican law can impose harsh penalties for violations that would be considered minor in the United States, and U.S. citizenship in no way exempts one from full prosecution under the Mexican criminal justice system.

Alcohol and Drugs

Excessive alcohol consumption and unruly behavior can lead to serious problems with Mexican authorities. Alcohol is involved in the vast majority of arrests, accidents, violent crimes, rapes, and deaths suffered by American students on Spring Break. All age or older are tried as adults.

Safety and Security

Standards of security, safety and supervision may not reach the levels expected in the United States. This has contributed to the deaths of U.S. citizens in automobile accidents. after falls from balconies or into open ditches, by drowning in the ocean as well as in hotel pools, and in watersports mishaps, among others.

Know Before You Go The following cities and areas are some of the traditional destinations in Mexico for travelers on Spring Break. While other resort areas may not be as well known for this type of travel, the

advice contained here still applies: Cancun and Cozumel, Acapulco, Cabo San Lucas. Matamoros/South Padre Island, Tijuana, and Oaxaca Nogales/Sonora.

Additional Information: Travelers going to Mexico over Spring Break should refer to the Department of State's **Consular Information** Sheet for Mexico and the publications Tips for Student Travelers and Help for American Victims of Crime Overseas.

**Contact Information:** In case of a serious emergency, travelers should immediately contact the closest U.S. Consular Agency, U.S. Consulate, or the U.S.

Embassy in Mexico City. Contact information can be found in the Consular Information Sheet for Mexico. You may also contact the Embassy by e-mail at: ccs@usembassy.net.mx. The Embassy's Internet address is: http:// www.usembassymexico.gov/.

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#### USARSO Community News Publication Dates

**Publication date** April 7, 2006

Submit by date Mar 30, 2006



Please submit information you would like to have included in the USARSO Newsletter to sandra.ramey@samhouston.army.mil

### Body Armor and Protective Equipment Reimbursement Program

Between now and 3 October 2006, the Department of the Army will reimburse both current and former Soldiers who purchased body armor and certain other protective equipment for use in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, Reimbursable equipment includes protective body armor (whether purchased as a complete outer tactical vest (OTV) or as separate components of an OTV), combat helmets, ballistic eye protection, hydration systems, summer weight gloves, and knee and elbow pads. To qualify for reimbursement, the equipment must have been purchased after September 10, 2001, and before August 1, 2004, and all equipment for which reimbursement is sought must be turned into the Army at the time a claim for reimbursement is filed. Claimants who no longer have the equipment must explain in writing why the equipment is unavailable for turn-in.

Current active duty or active reserve component Soldiers who seek reimbursement should complete and file a DD Form 2902 with the first field grade commander in the Soldier's current chain of command. With the completed DD Form 2902, the Soldier must provide (i) a copy of proof of deployment (such as deployment orders or a DD Form

214 noting deployment), (ii) copies of all available receipts or other proof of purchase for the items claimed, and (iii) either the available equipment for turn-in or the written explanation of why the equipment in unavailable. Former Soldiers and



survivors of deceased Soldiers may file a claim by mailing a completed DD Form 2902, along with the items noted above, directly to the U.S. Army Claims Service (USARCS) at the address provided in block 12 of the DD Form 2902.

A claimant who provides proof of purchase will be reimbursed the full purchase price plus shipping costs for each item, up to \$1,100 for any single item. If no proof of purchase is provided, the claimant will be reimbursed at a rate preestablished by the Department of the Army for each item of equipment. For example, the Army will pay \$551.60 for a complete

OTV if no purchase receipt is submitted with the claim. In addition, shipping costs for delivering items to USARCS are compensable and can be noted on the DD Form 2902.

Once a claim is filed, it will be processed through USARCS to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for payment. Claimants will be informed of any deficiencies in their claims, and will be given ample opportunity to correct such deficiencies. Although the claims process has been designed to ensure rapid settlement and payment of claims, potential claimants should not wait too long to file claims, as all claims must be filed by 3 October 2006.

More information on the body armor and protective equipment reimbursement program - including a printable DD Form 2902 and a list of reimbursable items together with the preestablished compensation rates can be found by accessing www.jagcnet.army.mil and selecting the U.S. Army Claims Service link under the "Client Services and Links" section. Claimants or commanders can also contact CPT Frances M. Hamel, Claims Attorney, USARSO, at frances.hamel@samhouston.army.mil or at (210) 295-6326, with any questions concerning this program or for additional information.

### Reenlistments in USARSO/470th MI



Sgt. 1st class Ian Hutchinson, reenlistments. The reenmlistment officer was Col Douglas Raymond.



Staff Sgt. Norman Morataya, reenlisting in Bldg 1000. The reenlistment Officer was Chief Warrant Off 3 Jerome. Goldick.

## **Upcoming Observences - Equal Opportunity**

#### **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways. They have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working inside and outside of the home, and by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force. Against the odds, women have earned respect and admiration from our nation.

#### **Women's History Month:**

Location: Fort Sam Houston Club

Date: 14 Mar 06

Time: 1030-1130

Guest speaker: BG Carla G. Hawley-Bowland, Europe

Regional Medical Command

Price: N/A Menu: N/A

Poc: Your local Equal Opportunity Advisor

### More information can be obtained from the sources located at the links below:

Federally Employed Women <a href="http://www.few.org">http://www.few.org</a>
Women in Military Service of American Memorial
Foundation <a href="http://www.wimsa.org">http://www.msa.org</a> Women's Hall of
Fame <a href="http://www.nwhp.org">http://www.nwhp.org</a>
Women's History Project <a href="http://www.nwhp.org">http://www.nwhp.org</a>

#### **Upcoming Training:**

Prevention of Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault – Pay Day Activities, 31 Mar 06

Equal Opportunity Representative Course (EORC), 10-21 Apr 06 (Poc USARSO EOA) Office: 210-295-6499 (DSN: 421)

Cell: 210-573-4894

E-Mail: seerfod@amhoustramynf



### Non-Lethal Weapons / Civil Disturbance Seminar

During the week of 23-27 January 2006 SFC Jose Olivieri, SMG Loonie Crook, and SFC David Barnes conducted a Non-Lethal Weapons / Civil Disturbance (NLW/CD) Seminar in Quito Ecuador. This course was also given to the Ministerial Military Police Battalion (PMM). The topics discussed were Orientation to Non-Lethal weapons, Rules of Engagement, Military Operations Other Than War, Communications Skills, Crowd dynamics, Empty Hand Techniques, Non-Lethal Munitions, and Formations. The Seminar was a combination of classroom and practical exercises. Participants were eager to learn and use the material presented to them.



SFC Jose Olivieri Demonstrating a Take Down Technique



Take Down Technique



SFC Olivieri explain the correct way to get into a Proper Line Riot Control Formation



Participants Practicing Use of Riot Baton



Check out the USARSO Web site for news and information! Go to http://www.usarso.army.milyou can contact the USARSO Webmasters by sending an email to

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### In and Around Texas

#### USARSO Social Coffee

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Where: Home of Judy Jackson 5508 Circle Oak

Bulverde, Texas

\*\*NOTE: We will carpool from Ft. Sam Houston leaving at 5:30pm from USARSO, Building 1000. Please let me know if you would like to Carpool with us. (Betsy 299-4073)

Time: 6:30pm (late arrivals welcome) Please bring a dish to share.

#### Old Gruene Market Days

**Date:** Feb 18-19, Mar18-19

City: Gruene

More than 100 vendors offer uniquely crafted items, collectibles and packaged Texas foods. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Simply Streisand

Date: Mar 3-5 City: <u>Dallas</u>

Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

#### North Texas Irish Festival

Date: Mar 3-5 City: <u>Dallas</u>

Includes a vast array of musical and dance talent, children's activity area with storytelling and dance instruction, more than 130 vendors of traditional Celtic wares, dozens of Irish food vendors and more. Fair Park, 1st Avenue at Perry St.

#### R. Carlos Nakai & Nawang Khechog

**Date:** Mar 3 **City:** Austin

Nakai, the world's premier Native American flutist, and Khechog, a master Tibetan flutist who studied with the Dalai Lama, meld the music of their cultures. One World Theatre.

# Chuck Wagon Cook-Off & Heritage Gathering

Date: Mar 4
City: Boerne

Includes a dozen authentic antique chuck wagons complete with chicken fried steak, peach cobbler and biscuits. Enjoy live music all day.
Agricultural
Heritage Museum.

#### Austin Chocolate Festival

**Date:** Mar 4-5 **City:** <u>Austin</u>

Consists of 70 vendors restaurants. bakeries. chocolatiers and patisseries — from the Austin area offering samples. Vendors compete in several categories. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Join Fat Turkey Chocolate Company and Birds Creek Catering in the fight against breast cancer. Tuscan Hall, 16221 Crystal Hills Drive. E-mail: info@austinchocolatefestival.com

#### Fredericksburg Peach Opry

**Date:** Mar 4 **City:** <u>Fredericksburg</u>

This is Bransonstyle opry show with music, comedy entertainment and fun for the whole family. E-mail: thetxpianoman@aol.com

#### Estonian Philharmonic Choir

Date: Mar 5
City: Austin

From early choral works to the music of fellow Estonian Avo Part, these impassioned virtuosos spin 500 years of music history into a night of unforgettable originality. Begins at 7 p.m. Hogg Auditorium.

#### South by Southwest Conferences &

<u>Festivals</u> **Date:** Mar 10-19 **City:** <u>Austin</u>

Participants from the music, film and Internet industries converge on Austin for 10 days to take part in three distinct

## Where are they now?



The patriotic Crusan family poses on the day of Kate Crusan's promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; Kate is the wife of MAJ (Ret) Rich Crusan, former USARSO PAO.

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### IN AND AROUND TEXAS CONTINUED...

— yet related — festivals, conferences and trade shows. Austin Convention Center, along with multiple theaters and music venues. E-mail: sxsw@sxsw.com

Market Days
Date: Mar 11-12
City: Boerne

Features arts and crafts, antiques, collectibles, unusual items and food booths. Main Plaza.

Cowboys on Main

Date: Mar 11, 18, 25 City: Bandera

Enjoy authentic cowboy entertainment from strolling musicians to chuck wagons and trick horses. Activities vary weekly. Downtown Main Street. E-mail: growthr@texas.net

#### Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo

Date: Mar 11-25 City: <u>Austin</u>

Come out for a hoof-pounding, showstopping, toe-tapping good time. Offers 13 rodeo performances, 14 concerts, a carnival, fairgrounds acts, commercial exhibits, livestock show and more. Travis County Expo Center.

#### <u>Urban Campfires Acoustic Music Series</u>

**Date:** Mar 11, Apr8, May 13 **City:** <u>San Antonio</u>

Brings fine singer/songwriters from around the world to San Antonio each month. Seating is in an intimate, living-room atmosphere. Lions Field Activity Center, 2809 Broadway. E-mail: urbancampfires@swbell.net

#### Flower & Garden Show

Date: Mar 11
City: Brenham

Enjoy classical music on the square while browsing the flower, plant, craft and food

#### **Island Assault 1944**

**Date:** Mar 11-12 **City:** <u>Fredericksburg</u>

The Museum's living history detachment demonstrates U.S. and

Japanese weapons and tactics used on the island battlegrounds of World War II. The Admiral Nimitz Museum Pacific Combat Zone.

#### **Texas Country Music Show**

**Date:** Mar 11 **City:** Kirbyville

Includes a variety of gospel and country music. Palace Theater, 313 E. Main.

#### **Market Day**

Date: Mar 11, Apr8, May13

City: Georgetown

Features arts & crafts, antiques, collectibles and festive foods. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Historic Downtown Georgetown.

#### THSA & CTMH Honor Kris Kristofferson, Sonny

Throckmorton & Freddy Powers

**Date:** Mar 12 **City:** <u>Austin</u>

The Texas Heritage Songwriters Association and the Center for Texas Music History at Texas State University - San Marcos bestow the title of Texas Heritage Songwriter on Kristofferson, Throckmorton and Powers. Includes performances by the honorees and a cavalcade of Texas music stars. Begins at 3 p.m. Historic Hills Cave.

#### **Alamo Irish Festival**

**Date:** Mar 17-19 **City:** San Antonio

Enjoy continuous live entertainment at the Arneson River Theatre, children's area, food and beverage booths, Irish genealogy, crafts and novelty booths. La Villita.

#### **Judy Collins**

**Date:** Mar 17 **City:** <u>Austin</u>

An icon of American music, Collins has thrilled audiences with her unique blend of interpretive folk songs and contemporary themes. One World Theatre.

#### 39th Annual Wreath Laying

Ceremony
Date: Mar 17
City: San Antonio

Honors the heroes of the Alamo. This ceremony at the front door of the Alamo includes speeches, taps, a roll call of the fallen heroes, wreath laying, traditional Irish music and a lone piper. Begins at noon.

#### **Trade Days**

**Date:** Mar 17-19 **City:** Fredericksburg

Includes more than 300 vendors, five barns, acres of antiques and more, biergarten and music. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Hwy. 290 E. across from Wildseed Farms. E-mail: fbg@moment.net

#### **Taste of Gumbo**

**Date:** Mar 18 **City:** Port Arthur

Bob Bowers Civic Center.

#### **Stiftungsfest**

Date: Mar 18 City: <u>San Antonio</u>

Beethoven Halle und Garten.

#### Citywide Garage Sale

**Date:** Mar 18-19 **City:** Austin

### IN AND AROUND TEXAS CONTINUED...

Offers an antique, collectible and vintage flea market. Palmer Events Center. E-mail: info@cwgs.com

#### **Wild Hog Explosion**

**Date:** Mar 18 **City:** <u>Bandera</u>

Involves team competition in wild hog catching for all ages, pork rib barbecue cook-off, hog kissing contest, arts & crafts, piggy pictures and more. Mansfield Park. E-mail: growthr@texas.net

#### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Date: Mar 18 City: San Antonio

Includes dignitaries, marching units, floats, clowns, horses, antique cars and music. Begins at 2 p.m. South Alamo Street, from the old post office, past the Alamo to La Villita.

## St. Patrick's Day River Dyeing Parade

Date: Mar 19 City: San Antonio

Six decorated barges float down the river with revelers and Irish musicians. Includes a program of Irish music and dance at the Arneson River Theater with a ceremony of proclamations, speeches and more Irish music. Down the San Antonio River to the Arneson River Theater.

#### **Taste of Round Rock**

**Date:** Mar 21 **City:** Round Rock

Enjoy offerings from local area restaurants and caterers, plus silent/live auction. Dell Diamond.

## Third Annual Fred Eaglesmith Texas Weekend

**Date:** Mar 23-26 **City:** <u>Gruene</u>

Musical event is centered on the music of Canadian singer/songwriter/bandleader Fred J. Eaglesmith.
Enjoy four days of great music from Eaglesmith and a variety of Texas musicians. Includes a barbecue dinner on Friday night and an all-day show on Sunday. Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Road. E-mail: tracie@gruenehall.com

#### The Peddler Show

**Date:** Mar 24-26 **City:** <u>Fredericksburg</u>

Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 16 S. E-mail:

info@peddlershow.com

#### Men's State Chili Cook-Off

**Date:** Mar 25 **City:** <u>Johnson City</u>

Sanctioned by the Chili Appreciation Society International. E-mail: txinfo@lbjcountry.com

#### <u>Texas Men's State Barbecue</u> Championship

Date: Mar 25 City: Johnson City

Sanctioned by the Lone Star Barbecue Association. E-mail: txinfo@lbjcountry.com

#### **Texas Summer Nights**

**Date:** Mar 26 **City:** <u>Gruene</u>

Showcases some of the finest talent in Central Texas. Gruene Hall.

#### **Mid-Texas Symphony**

**Date:** Mar 26 **City:** New Braunfels

Professional symphonic performance features Brahms, Saint-Saens and Poulenc with Sherry Rubins on percussion. Begins at 4 p.m. Jackson Auditorium, Texas Lutheran University Campus. E-mail: mts@tlu.edu

#### **CASI POD on the Pedernales**

Chili Cook-Off
Date: Mar 26
City: Johnson City

Benefits the CASI National Scholarship Fund.

#### Jerry Jeff Walker's Birthday

<u>Bash</u>

**Date:** Mar 31-Apr2 **City:** Austin

Jerry Jeff Walker celebrates the Texas way with three shows in three days. Broken Spoke, Paramount Theatre and Gruene Hall.

# Spring Market Day Arts & Crafts Festival

**Date:** Apr 1 **City:** Comfort

Shop an amazing array of arts & crafts vendors. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Comfort Park.

#### **Cowboys on Main**

**Date:** Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

City: Bandera

Enjoy authentic cowboy entertainment from strolling musicians to chuck wagons and trick horses. Activities vary weekly. Downtown Main Street. E-mail: growthr@texas.net

# IN AND AROUND TEXAS CONTINUED...

**Kerr County Wild Game Dinner** 

Date: Apr 1 City: Kerrville

This popular annual event serves up exotic game with all the fixings, a raffle and live auction. Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center, Hwy. 27 E.

**Daffodil Days Festival** 

Date: Apr 1

City: Round Rock

Features arts & crafts vendors, music and festivities. Begins at 9 a.m. Saturday. Round Rock Senior Center. E-mail: tjackson@round-rock.tx.us

**Spamarama** Date: Apr 1-2 City: Austin

Everything Spam, including a cook-off, **Anniversary** Spam Olympics and Spam Jam, comprises the 28th annual festival honoring this potted pork product. Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th St.

**Muster Days** Date: Apr 1-2 City: Austin

Enjoy military exhibits, demonstrations OCSC Tour of Homes and historical re-enactments. Features a **Date**: Apr 1 parade, flyovers, band concerts and food booths. Admission and parking are free. Shuttle buses are available from the parking areas. Texas National Guard's Camp Mabry.

**Market Day** Date: Apr 1, May6 City: Wimberley

Auction

Lion's Field, R.R. 2325.

10th Annual Chili Cook-Off &

Date: Apr 1 City: Bandera

Includes live music all afternoon on 11th Street. 11th Street Cowboy Bar, 307 11th St. E-mail:

cowboybarbandera@aol.com

The Austin Fine Arts Festival

Date: Apr 1-2 City: Austin

A tradition since 1951, this two-day exhibit brings 220 nationally juried artists to Austin. Includes artist demonstrations, interactive art installations, live music, dance performances, kids art activities and more. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Republic Square Park.

Pleasant Hill Winery's Ninth

Date: Apr 1-2 City: Brenham

Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Pleasant Hill Winery, 1441 Salem Road. E-mail: texaswine@aol.com

City: Ft. Sam Houston

Cost of tickets \$10 if purchased before

or \$15 the day of

# USARSO Sportsmen Are In Hog Heaven

It was just before midnight and the wind still howled shrilly. This night had been especially selected for its full moon, but very little illumination penetrated the thick layer of clouds that blanketed the sky above our heads. Suddenly without warning three large black shapes came out of the tree line and moved into the open. My son dozed next to me, finally succumbing to several hours of staring into the inky dark night. I firmly shook his shoulder as I announced "hogs" and handed him the binoculars to confirm my identification. The binoculars were able to gather enough light to give the dark shapes individual legs and a head. My son confirmed my identification with a tone mixed with excitement and still lingering drowsiness. This was our first hunt for feral hogs and we were still unsure as to what to expect. More than a hundred feet in front of the hogs was an automatic feeder that had been dispensing dried corn every two hours to attract feeding hogs. Mounted on the feeder were also a solar panel and several small lights that cast a pale green glow in the immediate area. It was there that I hoped the hogs would go to eat and that the feeder lights would provide the light needed for a clear shot. But after almost 30 minutes of waiting, it became disappointingly clear that these hogs were resolutely avoiding the light and content to munch on the corn that the wind had blown outside the dimly lit circle. I asked my son to check his scope to see if he had enough light to make a clear shot. The disappointment was evident in his voice when he replied "no dad, it's too dark for a good shot." I peered through the large scope that I had recently mounted on my rifle just for night hunting excursions. Its huge 56mm lens gathered just enough light for me to clearly see the hog and place the illuminated reticule where I wanted it. I paused just long enough to ensure my son was watching with the binoculars, and then carefully squeezed the trigger. At the crack of the rifle shot the hog collapsed without a step and a load of fresh pork chops, ribs and sausage for the freezer was assured.

It is estimated that as many as 2 million wild hogs, half of the nation's total, live in Texas. Feral hogs are the most prolific large wild mammal in North America and according to Mr. Mark Mapston of the



Texas Wildlife Services Cooperative Extension, with adequate nutrition a feral hog population can double in only four months! That is a lot of competition for other wildlife species. Wild hogs range from three to five feet tall and can weigh up to 400 pounds. Remarkable specimens can even weigh double that. Each year in Texas feral hogs do an estimated \$52 million in agricultural damage. Fortunately for sportsmen, hunting has proven as one of the most effective means of controlling the exploding feral hog population. In addition to being widely available and providing great table fare, feral hogs can be a great hunting challenge. Pigs are widely regarded as the most intelligent of the "farm animals" and their wild cousins show all of the same traits. While their eyesight is generally poor, they make up for that with excellent senses of smell and hearing. Many hunters swear hogs spook far easier than deer. Adding to the challenge, hogs do most of their activity and feeding at night. Hogs can also be very difficult to bring down. In addition to offering a smaller vital area than deer, males have a tough covering of skin, cartilage and scar tissue that develops over the shoulders called the shield. In large males the shield can be as thick as two inches and can protect the hog from arrows and all but deep penetrating bullets. In fact, during our hunt, several USARSO hunters connected with large caliber rifles only to watch the hogs spin and return to the forest as if nothing had happened! And don't forget that hunting feral hogs deserves an element of caution. Males grow large tusks and bad

temperaments. 400lbs of agitated hog with five inch tusks can be a formidable quarry. Stories abound of hunters and ranchers whose quick feet and a nearby tree saved them from certain injury. How many hunters do you know who have been treed by an angry deer?

This year the Texas Department of Agriculture has dedicated \$500,000 to research how to control the state's feral hog population. But for a growing number of USARSO hunters, the best solution is to grab your rifle and head to the woods. How do you like your pork chops?

Most Texas ranches that offer hunting, offer feral hogs. There is no closed season for feral hog hunting in Texas. Though feral hogs are not classified as a game animal, a hunting license is generally required for sport hunting. Night hunting with, or without artificial illumination is usually permitted.

USARSO hog hunters on this trip included: Terry and Aileen Zittle, John (Big Dog) Adams, COL Jim Hampton, Luis and Lilly Camacho, Alicia Galvany and Roger, Rog and Candy Astin

Six feral hogs were harvested on the trip and the reports from the kitchens are excellent!